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Letters to The Times

C. I. A.'s Self-Portrait

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

In Alvin Shuster's brilliant story from Washington (The Times, July 9) the Central Intelligence Agency informs us (at our expense) that it will never inform us on how they spend our funds.

This is of the greatest interest, not only because it shows that the temptation to speak about one's self is irresistible, even when there is nothing to say, but also because it reveals to the awe-stricken American taxpayer that Allen W. Dulles wrote his first book (The Boer War: A History) "when he was only 8 years old."

As we had already begun to suspect from his brilliant conduct of the Cuban and Algerian affairs, we have in Mr. Dulles the most precocious political genius of our age: at the tender age of 8 he already knew all the things he knows now.

NICCOLO TUCCI

New York, July 7, 1961.